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SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

January 30, 2014

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of S. C.
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

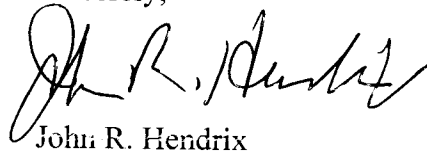
Re: Request of the Public Service Commission for Information on Termination of
Electric and/or Gas Service

Dear Ms Boyd:

Pursuant to the letter received from Mr. David Butler, Esq., dated January 13, 2005, enclosed is South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's (SCE&G) information regarding involuntary termination of both electric and gas customers' services. This report covers involuntary terminations in the fourth quarter of 2014.

A copy of this report is being provided to the Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,



John R. Hendrix

Enclosures

C: F. David Butler, Esq.
Dan F. Arnett
Catherine D. Taylor, Esq.
John W. Flitter
Kenneth R. Jackson
K. Chad Burgess

South Carolina Electric and Gas
Disconnect Statistics
4th Quarter 2013

	Disconnects			% Complete vs Generated
	DNP's Generated	Resolved	DNP's Completed	
<u>October</u> Residential	27,985	19,512	8,473	30%
Non-Residential	1,865	1,499	366	20%
Total	29,850	21,011	8,839	30%
<u>November</u> Residential	25,789	19,483	6,306	24%
Non-Residential	1,752	1,440	312	18%
Total	27,541	20,923	6,618	24%
<u>December</u> Residential	23,078	18,243	4,835	21%
Non-Residential	1,551	1,286	265	17%
Total	24,629	19,529	5,100	21%
<u>Grand Totals</u> Residential	76,852	57,238	19,614	26%
Non-Residential	5,168	4,225	943	18%
Total	82,020	61,463	20,557	25%

Resolved indicates payment received or arrangements made (Short term arrangement, Deferred Payment Plan, Medical Certificates, etc.)

	Reconnects									
	Same Day Reconnect	One Day	Two Days	Three Days	Four Days	Five Days	> Five Days	No Reconnect	Total	
<u>October</u> Residential	4551	1098	313	206	130	75	449	1651	8,473	
Non-Residential	161	47	18	17	10	6	20	87	366	
Total	4,712	1,145	331	223	140	81	469	1,738	8,839	
% Reconnected	53%	13%	4%	3%	2%	1%	5%	20%		
<u>November</u> Residential	3609	778	195	130	87	54	288	1165	6,306	
Non-Residential	144	42	9	8	3	4	24	78	312	
Total	3,753	820	204	138	90	58	312	1,243	6,618	
% Reconnected	57%	12%	3%	2%	1%	1%	5%	19%		
<u>December</u> Residential	2717	552	158	145	86	41	210	926	4,835	
Non-Residential	114	24	11	7	5	3	12	89	265	
Total	2,831	576	169	152	91	44	222	1,015	5,100	
% Reconnected	56%	11%	3%	3%	2%	1%	4%	20%		
<u>Grand Totals</u> Residential	10,877	2,428	666	481	303	170	947	3,742	19,614	
Non-Residential	419	113	38	32	18	13	56	254	943	
Total	11,296	2,541	704	513	321	183	1,003	3,996	20,557	
% Reconnected	55%	12%	3%	2%	2%	1%	5%	19%		

If payment is not received within 10 days of the disconnect date, the account is final billed.
Those accounts falling in that category are indicated by "no reconnect".





System-wide Disconnect Statistics 4th Quarter 2013

Reasons for involuntary termination:

- Safety – hazardous meter situations
- Energy Diversion
- Disconnect Non-payment

Safety:

- During the 4th quarter of 2013, there was 1 active meter turned off for safety reasons.
- This meter was reconnected after repairs were made.

Energy Diversion:

- There were no accounts disconnected due to Energy Diversion.

Disconnect for non-payment:

- 20,557 disconnect orders were completed during the 4th quarter of 2013. This represents an estimated 17,122 unique customers. 95% of these customers are residential customers and 5% are non-residential.
- 75% of the disconnect orders generated were canceled due to a payment or arrangement (Deferred Payment Agreement, Short Term Arrangement, etc.)
- The average daily number of disconnect orders completed was 343.
- Of the customers who were disconnected 67% reconnected within a 24 hour period. 9% of customers were disconnected 2 or more times during this period.
- There were 364 customers with Medical Certificates during this period.

SCE&G Residential Delinquency Process

When a customer does not pay his/her utility bill, there are a number of steps that SCE&G takes to address the situation. The last step, and the least desirable, for dealing with a customer who has not paid his/her bill is to disconnect that customer's power.

Before any customer's power is disconnected, that customer is given multiple opportunities to pay a "past due" bill. The first past due notice is an attachment to the customer's monthly bill. It is displayed in the bill message portion and is marked "IMPORTANT NOTICE." This notifies the customer, at least ten (10) days prior to the possible termination of service, of SCE&G's intent to disconnect power. The notice displays a total of utility and non-utility related charges and complies with PSC Regulation 103-352A. The notice reads as follows:

BEFORE SERVICE IS DISCONNECTED

Your electric and/or natural gas service has been scheduled for disconnection because of non-payment. Under the rules and policies of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, you have certain rights in this situation.

1. You have the right to an interview with the SCE&G local office customer representative at the address shown above who is authorized to accept payment or assist you in making deferred payment plan arrangements prior to disconnection. Contact our office between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.
2. SCE&G intends to resolve any dispute or concern you may have. Call 1-800-251-7234 to have the staff of SCE&G investigate and review any dispute you may have concerning your service.
3. During the months of December through March, SCE&G will not disconnect a residential customer for a 30-day period, when furnished with a Medical Certificate signed by a licensed physician. If disconnection of your service would be dangerous to your health or a member of your household, obtain the Medical Certificate form from your SCE&G local office, have it completed and signed by your licensed physician and return the form to us prior to disconnection.
4. SCE&G's Customer Assistance Department works with elderly, handicapped and other special needs customers who require help from local agencies.
5. If a dispute cannot be resolved, the Office of Regulatory Staff is available at 1-800-922-1531 to investigate and review any unresolved dispute between SCE&G and the customer.

Four days prior to the forecasted disconnect, the customer is mailed a second notice, providing yet another opportunity to bring the account into good standing. This notice complies with PSC Regulation 103-352b, and includes options for customer to avoid disconnection or to communicate disputes.

In addition, third party notification is available to a customer that requests another individual to be notified before service is disconnected.

SCE&G does not disconnect services to its customers if the 24 hour-forecasted temperature is 32 degrees or below or 99 degrees or higher, or when adverse weather (ice storm, hurricane, major storms) impacts its service areas. In all cases, the company tries to use good judgment.

Service disconnects, especially those that coincide with inclement weather, are handled on a case-by-case basis, and include a consideration of immediate weather forecasts and a review of the customer's payment history.

As noted above, from December through March, SCE&G will not disconnect power for a 30-day period if a customer furnishes a physician-signed medical certificate stating that the customer or a member of the household has a health requirement that prohibits disconnection of service. These certificates are required by Federal law and upheld by the PSC.

In instances where a customer has demonstrated a good faith effort to pay the bill, but is struggling financially, SCE&G works directly with that customer to develop payment options that are tailored to the customer's individual situation. Those options include:

- . Short Term Arrangements – Allows a currently forecasted disconnect date to be stopped and deferred to the next forecasted disconnect date. In addition, any notices that have not been mailed to the customer are stopped.
- . Deferred Payment Plan – A payment plan designed to allow a customer to pay his past due amounts in monthly installments.

SCE&G Customer Representatives and Field Service Representatives are trained to identify customers with medical and/or special needs, and help them understand the types of financial assistance programs that may be available to them. Among those programs:

- White Cross – Provides a courtesy service for customers who require medical equipment in their homes. A courtesy call is made prior to disconnecting special needs customers. SCE&G has approximately 5,929 White Cross customers. When these customers are delinquent, SCE&G customer service representatives place courtesy phone calls to remind them that they are late in paying their bill.
- Weatherization – Some customers need help making their homes more weather resistant. Through employee volunteer efforts and corporate donations, SCE&G supports programs sponsored by local energy offices throughout the state to help many such customers. This program helps customers control their energy bills by weatherizing their homes so they can be heated and cooled more efficiently. Since the program began in 1983, more than 5,800 homes have been weatherized throughout South Carolina.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – South Carolina's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps people with their heating bills. The amount of assistance provided depends on the heating fuel used and the applicant's income. Since the program began in 1980, more than \$88 million in assistance has gone to SCE&G customers. To be eligible, families must meet federal standards of a low-income household.

- The SCE&G Employee Good Neighbor Fund – funded through the generous donations of SCE&G employees and retirees, this program provides temporary aid to individuals and families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties and have exhausted all other sources of help. Funds are administered exclusively through employee referrals to provide essentials such as food, medical, and shelter expenses. In 2011, more than 400 families received financial assistance through this program.
- Project Share – SCE&G collects money via bill inserts, bill message, etc. to assist customers. These funds are administered by state agencies and the Salvation Army. Since 1986 almost \$8M in contributions assisted 44,600 customers. In 2011 more than \$225,000.00 in contributions assisted 632 customers.

SCE&G customer service representatives regularly refer customers in need of assistance to local community action agencies, as well as state and private agencies that specialize in providing that assistance. SCE&G's Website, www.sceg.com, publicizes a summary of available assistance.